

2004 SPRING TROUT STOCKING PROGRAM

Bonus Broodstock Ponds and Lakes

Each spring the Division stocks over 575,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout in nearly 200 streams, lakes, and ponds statewide. This popular program provides a variety of trout fishing opportunities for more than 100,000 anglers. The trout are reared at the Division's Pequest Trout Hatchery and most are 1½ years old when stocked, at an average size of 10½ inches and weighing ½ pound each. However, some of the trout that are stocked are considerably larger, weighing 3 to 5 pounds each and ranging from 14 to 19 inches. Called "broodstock" or "breeders", these are mature fish (2½ years old) used each fall to provide eggs as part of the hatchery's continuous production cycle. After the broodstock have been spawned in the hatchery, some (approximately 1,000) are stocked in the fall. The remainder (4,000 – 6,000) is stocked the following spring, primarily before the opening day of the trout season.

In 2004 the Division of Fish and Wildlife added a new facet to its spring trout stocking program, intended to increase interest and excitement in this popular springtime angling activity. "Bonus Broodstock" will be stocked in higher numbers in selected trout-stocked waters. Nine ponds and small lakes throughout the state, located in populated areas, have been selected to receive five to six times more broodstock than they have traditionally received in the past (see table below and map). By concentrating 390 of these large trout in relatively small lakes and ponds it is expected that angler participation and satisfaction will increase as anglers either catch these trout themselves or observe others catching them. The trout will be stocked prior to opening day (Saturday, April 10, 2004). If the "Bonus Broodstock" concept is well received by anglers this spring, then in 2005 a different set of trout-stocked waters will be selected to receive bonus broodstock.

2004 BONUS BROODSTOCK PONDS AND LAKES

Map Key	Waterbody	County	Waterbody Size (acres)	2004 Preseason Trout Allocation ¹	2004 Pre-season Broodstock Allocation	
					2004	2003
1	Woodcliff Lake	Hudson	15	510	50	10
2	Verona Park Lake	Essex	13	500	50	0 ²
3	Burnham Park Pond	Morris	4	330	30	5
4	Roosevelt Park Pond	Middlesex	10	440	50	10
5	Holmdel Park Pond	Monmouth	3	230	30	5
6	Colonial Lake	Mercer	10	400	50	10
7	Grenloch Lake	Gloucester	8	400	50	10
8	Riverview Beach Pond	Salem	5	450	30	10
9	Birch Grove Park Pond	Atlantic	12	460	50	10

¹ The pre-season allocation includes the broodstock allocation.

² Because of an ongoing lake restoration project, Verona Park Pond was not stocked with trout prior to opening day in 2003. Although it was stocked several times after opening day, in late April/May, this was too late in the season to receive broodstock trout.

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